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A

LIVELY TESTIMONY

TO THE

Living Truth,

Given forth by *Robert Jeckell* upon his Death-bed.

In the preſence of many eye and ear Witneſſes whoſe names are ſubſcribed.

Bleſſed are the dead that die in the Lord, &c.

London, Printed in the year 1676.

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A Relation of *Robert Jeckells* Death, and his Teſtimony for Truth before his Departure.

Robert Jeckell of *New-Caſtle upon Tine*, having a deſire to come to *Swarthmoore*, began his Journey in company with ſeveral other Friends, and began to be ſick the ſame day that he came from home, and was ſick at ſeveral places by the way: But ſtill preſſed forward to his Journeys end, and would not be ſatisfied, to ſtay ſhort of *Swarthmoore*, where he came the 2d. of the 5th. month 1676. and went to his Bed preſently after he came in, where he lay ſick 9 days, and then dyed upon the 11th. of the ſame month, and made a Comfortable end, being all the time of his Sickneſs, in perfect ſenſe and memory, as may be ſeen by the following words, which were ſpoken by him a little before his Death:

Two days before his Death, he ſaid, *Well Friends, it's the belief of my heart, that the Lord will raiſe me up, to bear a faithfull Teſtimony for God and his Truth.*

In the Evening before his Departure, when Friends ſtood about him, expecting him to give up, (*according to the belief of his heart*) he was raiſed up, by the *power* of the *Lord*, and ſpake with an audible voice as followeth.

No ſeparation like unto this, Soul ſeparated from the Body, the Spirit returning to God that gave it, and the Body to the Earth from whence it came. For great has the loving kindneſs of the Lord been unto me, not unto me only, but unto you all my dear Friends, who are faithfull unto

Death; I can ſpeak it to his praiſe, and unto his glory for evermore: and in it can bid you everlaſtingly farewell.

I have always been faithfull to the Truth, as to what was manifeſted, for God hath loved me from a Child. And he ſaid, ſpreading out his arms, *Oh the bleſſed precious Truth is above all the World! and this is my living Teſtimony, I have to bear for the Lord and his Truth: For always I loved Truth, and preferred it before all the World; for Truth is precious, and to be valued before all things below it: Therefore oh dear Friends prize Truth, this precious Truth, for it lives for ever. Let nothing divert your minds from that ſence of Truth you have, for as that is kept too, Truth anſwers Truth in every heart.*

As to the principle of Truth, it will reign over all; though ſtrange things may happen in this Nation, yet the Lord will crown his bleſſed Truth, and his Glory over all: Therefore all my dear Friends, be faithfull to that manifeſtation in your own particulars, for a Profeſſion will ſtand none in ſtead, unleſs they live in the life and power thereof; for this is an everlaſting Truth that will live for ever: all that feel Gods love let them prize it, for it is better then words.

And it was the deſire of my heart, to come and viſit my dear Friend Geo. Fox, *and I am very well ſatisfied therein; and it was the travail of my ſoul a long time before I came, and now I am come to give up all, and herein I am fully ſatisfied.*

At another time he ſaid, *Though I was perſwaded to ſtay by the way, before I came to this place; yet this was the place where I would have been, and the place where I ſhould have been, whether I live or die.*

And dear George, *I can add nothing unto thee, for thou want'ſt nothing of the good Spirit, for thou art in God and God in thee; but let us give all the praiſe and the*

glory

glory to God; but I pray unto God that he may preserve thee, from all evil spirits.

Another time *G. F.* spoke to him and said, he might offer up his Spirit and Soul to the Lord, who gives breath and life to all, and takes it again; and he lifted up his hands and said, *The Lord is worthy of it, and I have done it.* *G. F.* asked him if he could say, Thy will O God be done, in Earth as it is in Heaven; And he lifted up his hands and eyes, and chearfully said *he did it.* And he said, *he had been faithfull in a Profession to what he knew, untill the manifestation of the Truth broke forth.* And his mouth was often filled with praises to the Lord, and said, *though he had had multitude of business, yet the Lord had carried him over all.*

And dear Friends, dwell in love and unity together, and keep out of all jarrs, strife and contention, for the Enemy lies near to draw out; And if you be divided one against another, then you will come to a loss; Profession will stand none in stead, for alas any may make a Profession, but it's those that live the life of Truth, and dwell in the obedience of it, that obtains the Crown. For alas a silly woman may say, Lord, Lord help me, when the ditch is before her; but the Lord doth not bid her fall into it, but there is that near that will manifest, and open the eye, and preserve out of it. That Living principle of Truth, which will preserve all that dwell in it.

And Friends, be sure to continue faithfull unto the end, and be not weary in well-doing, for that is a good testimony, they that continue faithfull unto the end shall be saved.

At another time he said, *all deceit and fraud will come to nothing, I am an innocent man, and clear of all men, upon the face of the Earth.*

If there be any bad Spirits, (that under a pretence

makes

makes a Profession of Truth) do take occasion to speak evil [illegible] when I am gone, you are Loving [illegible] Jonesses, and can [illegible] Liar [illegible] many, (speaking to Bridget Pindar and Elizabeth [illegible]) that I am an Innocent man, and that the Lord [illegible] clear [illegible] and I lie down my head in peace [illegible]

And [illegible] you are my Neighbours; As to [illegible] ly up to the Lord, for she love [illegible] her; and I desire she may be [illegible] all things; and that you may [illegible] and be [illegible] to her [illegible] what you can. And [illegible] often told my dear Wife, a [illegible] what we have in [illegible] things, it was the Lords first before it was ours, and in that I desire that she may serve the Truth to the end of her days.

And I desire those Friends, whom I have intrusted in my Will, (naming them all) to see my Will truly performed, and to be faithfull to their Trust, that so they may discharge a good Con[illegible] the sight of the Lord; And that they may see all [illegible] and discharged, for I am well able to discharge [illegible] things.

And now my dear [illegible] the everlasting power of God, I commit you all to the Lord, to be preserved and kept, in his everlasting power, and bid you all everlastingly, yea everlastingly farewell.

All is done: And to the Lord I leave you all, unto him I commit you all. Farewell.

Let me go hence in peace, for I shall go hence and be no more seen in mutability.

About two hours before he died, *G. F.* took him by the hand, and asked him if he was satisfied of his seeing him; And he lifted up his eyes, and with a gladness of heart and smilingly he praised the Lord, *And said that his Comfort flowed in as a flood.* And G. F. asked him, what

what he ſaid; And he ſpoke thoſe words over again. And *G. F.* ſaid unto him, thy everlaſting peace and reſt is in Chriſt, that bruiſes the head of the Serpent, who is over all from Everlaſting to Everlaſting, who is the Everlaſting food of Life, for thy Soul and Spirit, and in him thou wilt lay down thy head in peace, who is the Crown of life: And many other words he ſpoke to *G. F.* and *G. F.* to him, which would be too large to mention.

Theſe words before written, were ſpoken in the hearing of theſe witneſſes, and ſeveral others:

Iſabell Yeamans.
Bridget Pinder.
Elizabeth Hopper.
Sarah Fell.
Suſanna Fell.
Rachel Fell.
Agnes Ormandy.
Edw. Brathwaite.
Edw. Haiſtwhittle.

AND alſo dear Friends, this lives in our hearts as a Teſtimony concerning our dear Friend *Robert Jeckell*, that Gods power was with him, and his preſence did attend him, & in much patience the Lord preſerved him, in the time of his Sickneſs, from day to day; and he was in perfect ſence and memory, all the time of his weakneſs; he often ſaying to us, Dear Friends, give me up, and weep not for me, but be willing to bear a part with me, for I am content with the Lords doings, (and leave me not, till you have ſeen all finiſhed concerning me;) which he has done to the praiſe of the Lord, and to the great comfort and refreſhment of our immortal Souls.

And he often declared, *That he had no pain, but that he*

he saw how he went away by little and little, always lifting up his hands while he had strength, praising the Lord.

And this is our testimony, that he is entred into the everlasting fulness of Joy, where there is pleasures for evermore.

For at the time of his Departure, *Gods heavenly power* did fill our hearts, to our great peace and satisfaction: Insomuch that we can say, *Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, for they shall be had in everlasting remembrance*; for the Lord sealed it upon our hearts, at the time of his separation, *that he had received his own with increase.* — Praises be to the Lord for ever, who hath been our support, and borne us up, in this our great Exercise; so that we can give encouragement, to all that may meet with the like tryal, not to be bowed down, under any Exercise which the Lord may call unto, nor let it into their heart, to question why the Lord doth it; for he is able to sanctifie every Exercise, and to make all things ease to them that love and fear his name; to whom be the glory of all for evermore.

Swarthmore in *Lancashire*, 14 d. 5 mo. 1676.

Bridget Pinder.
Elizabeth Hepper.